

You Are Never Unemployed

Most people at one time or another spend some time “between jobs.” During this time they are traditionally described as unemployed. If you have left your last job and have not yet started another, you may feel unemployed. But if you are in search of a new job, are you employed or unemployed?

The answer is that you are employed. You are self-employed, and your duties are: research, communications, public relations, sales, correspondence, filing, morale maintenance, and much more. Unless you are still otherwise employed, this is your full time job. It is a temporary job, to be sure, and the more temporary the better, but it must be full time.

Many methods are used to avoid being in the status of job seeker. The equivalent descriptions of status are many, including:

Unemployed	Downsized worker	Laid off worker
Out of work	Not Working	In transition
In between jobs	On sabbatical	Doing a little consulting
Occupationally challenged	Putting together a few things	Taking a breather from work
Displaced worker	Reassessing career options	

There are many more, which as in the above, range from a status, title, or description of how you may be spending your time. Nearly all of them avoid the notion that you are aggressively searching for an outstanding job.

When taking one of these descriptions as your status, you are in denial of your need to quickly and happily become re-employed. This denial can be caused by pride, ego, embarrassment, fear, feeling overwhelmed, or possibly some degree of depression.

Taking the bold step of starting your new job of job search today can help to eliminate these barriers to becoming employed. You are the President of your job search venture. You call the shots. You say whether you are early or late for work; working too hard or too little; being productive or being lazy.

You can fool yourself on the surface but not inside, right? You can fool your family and friends, telling them how you are “busier now than when I was working” with lots of activities taking up your time. You can talk about this company and that executive and that manager who want you to come to work for them.

You can talk of all sorts of imminent opportunities and possibilities, and this can make you feel better. Does it help or hurt your job search? It can nearly stop it cold in terms of real progress.

You must use the same production criteria as you would any other job. If you are not producing according to a master plan that hits all angles of the job search, then you are not succeeding on your job.

The Announcement

To start in your new temporary job, you must announce it. You must, at a very minimum, tell yourself you are starting full-time job search and then actually start. To cement the decision, announce to others that you are starting full-time and that you have expectations of results.

Being responsible to someone is a large factor in every job. If you had a supervisor, then it would be that person. If you are the top person or run or own your own business, then it may be your customers. In any case, you are used to being responsible to someone for results.

For this reason you must establish the same thing on this job. Choose someone for your temporary job search mentor. The person does not have to supervise you, and in fact does not need to be a person who would or could supervise you. Just a person you can report progress to. It can be a spouse, parent, friend, colleague, or career-marketing consultant. Just saying that you will be responsible to yourself is not as effective. This is not to say that you must report every action, but you must be responsible to this person for results. Be careful in who you pick for this purpose. The person must know something about you, your goals, and must care about you and your future. The choice of whether or not to choose a professional to help you is yours, and must be made carefully.

Tell the person you choose the results you expect to achieve and by when. Then set out to accomplish what you have committed to. Be totally honest with yourself and with the person you will report to. Otherwise, you are wasting their time and yours and sabotaging your entire effort. Incentive to achieve is provided by landing the job, but interim achievements are important also.

The mechanics of setting up and running your job search are critical, but adjusting to the idea that you are employed at job search as your main professional function must be accomplished first. Starting the process before you have established your commitment will only imprint poor work habits and will slow you down.

The dynamics of maintaining full focus on your search full time will be a new concept. Do not think that it is easy, automatic, or that it comes naturally. It does not. The important thing to keep in mind as you start is that you can do it; and that with a positive attitude and the right tools and direction, you will do it.